The State of Iowa has recently appointed a group of eleven individuals to spearhead an effort to reorganize information technology service delivery within state government. These eleven individuals – called the Information Technology Transition Team – represent the three main information technology service delivery agencies in state government, information technology users, legislators, citizens and the private sector.

The Legislature authorized this review of the delivery system during the 1999 legislative. House File 762 did several things:

- **Established the Information Technology Transition Team** to recommend a structure for a new Information Technology Department which includes a formal, non-controlling relationship between this new Department and the Iowa Communications Network and Iowa Public Television.

- **Outlined the membership of the Information Technology Transition Team** — the administrative head of the Division of information Technology Services in the Department of General Services (Richard Varn); a person representing the Iowa Communications Network (Tommy Thompson); a person representing Iowa Public Television (Dave Bolender/Mollie Phillips); a person representing the Information Technology Management Committee (Rich Jacobs); and three designees by the Governor (Dr. Bob Hardman, Randy Hollingsworth, and Diane Kolmer); and four members of the General Assembly (Sen. Bob Dvorsky, Sen. Steve King, Rep. Steve Falck, and Rep. Libby Jacobs).

- **Authorized the Transition Team to hire a contractor** to review the current relationships and propose changes.

- **Set a mission for the new Department** – to foster the development and application of information technology to improve the lives of Iowans.

- **Delineated the divisions to be included in the new Department** – Planning/Security/Standards; Customer Support and Training; Finance and Administration; Information Technology Operations.

- **Required the Director of the Division of Information Technology Services to submit a unified budget proposal for the new Information Technology Department this coming fiscal year (FY 2001).**

In mid-August, the Des Moines-based State Public Policy Group and Sacramento-based Center for Digital Government were hired to facilitate this process and make a recommendation. This process is intensive because of the short timeframe, but emphasizes input from all share holders.

August 15 – September 15
Transition Team contractors met with over 100 people in two weeks to talk about how their interests can be represented in a new Information Technology Department, and the efficiencies that could be achieved. A complete list of the individuals contacted during this time period are available on the project web site – www.info.state.ia.us/transitionteam/

September 15
Recommendation must be provided to Transition Team, and will be available on the project web site – www.info.state.ia.us/transitionteam/

September 15 – October 15
Transition team contractors will invite all shareholders in this process to attend one of ten input sessions, where the draft recommendation will be presented and discussed, and questions answered. These will most likely be held the week of September 27. A list will be available on the project web site – www.info.state.ia.us/transitionteam/

October 15
Final report and recommendation presented to the legislative Oversight & Communications Subcommittee. This will also be available on the project web site – www.info.state.ia.us/transitionteam/

The challenge now is time — initial recommendations must be made by September 15 and the final report must be presented to the Legislature by October 15. The Transition Team would appreciate your thoughts about a new Information Technology Department. We have constructed a survey to facilitate gathering this information. The Team is meeting with many individuals each week to better understand the issues surrounding reorganization of information technology service delivery in state government.

Your input is very important to this process. Please take some time to fill out our online survey at www.info.state.ia.us/transitionteam/survey.html

Transition Team Members

Dave Bolender – *Iowa Public Television*
Rich Jacobs – *Information Technology Management Committee*
Tommy Thompson – *Iowa Communications Network*
Richard Varn – *Information Technology Services*

Sen. Bob Dvorsky – *Assistant Senate Minority Leader*
Rep. Steve Falck – *Ranking member, Oversight & Communications Subcommittee*
Rep. Libby Jacobs – *Majority Whip*
Sen. Steve King – *Co-chair, Oversight & Communications Subcommittee*

Dr. Bob Hardman – *University of Northern Iowa*
Randy Hollingsworth – *Rockwell-Collins*
Diane Kolmer – *Chair, IOWAccess Board*